

# NASA News

National Aeronautics and  
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Goddard Space Flight Center  
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## **NASA to Conduct Groundbreaking for New Facility**

NASA Wallops Flight Facility will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on May 20 to begin construction on a high-quality payload processing facility to support NASA's science and technology missions.

The new payload building will house two large bays reaching up to 70-feet high with cranes capable of lifting up to 40 tons. The building also will include project equipment rooms and two large project workspace rooms.

When complete, the building will accommodate the testing and processing of spacecraft and upper stage components of larger rockets prior to being moved to launch pads on Wallops Island. The new payload processing building will provide the much needed, higher quality space for the integration of satellites and launch vehicles such as the air-launched Pegasus.

In addition to spacecraft integration and testing, other expected uses include preparation of scientific balloon technology and demonstration payloads for reentry technology flight-testing. This will include projects for the Department of Defense, educational university-class missions, and commercial spacecraft.

The building, expected to cost approximately \$5 million, will be located adjacent to the Wallops Flight Facility's Main Base behind the Marine Science Consortium.

The first phase of construction is scheduled to be complete by January 2004.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS: Media interested in covering this story at Wallops should contact Betty Flowers in the Public Affairs Office at (757) 824-1584 or 824-1579.**